

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Howard County

## Welcome!

Spring has arrived! As you enjoy your holiday weekend, I wanted to share upcoming events and, programs including ways to get and stay involved here in Howard County. For more up-to-the-minute information, "[Like](#)" me on Facebook or "[Follow](#)" me on Twitter (@CalvinBallTeam). You can also register for County updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Have questions, comments, concerns or ideas on how we can be doing better to serve Howard County? I invite you to call my office at 410-313-2001 or email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you would like to register and receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

April 2015 Edition

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kids Fest

Come check out all that Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has to offer children at this year's Kids Fest. The event will be held **Saturday, April 4, 2015 11am-2pm** at Meadowbrook Park, 5001 Meadowbrook Ln and features sports instruction, games activities, arts and crafts, food and more. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

## Long Reach Village Center Urban Renewal Plan Community Meetings Scheduled

In 2013, I introduced and the Council subsequently passed legislation that authorized the County to purchase the Long Reach Village Center. That purchase was finalized in February 2015. I want to personally thank all those who called my office, connected with the village board or the administration as we have valued your feedback. In keeping with the spirit of community engagement, we have scheduled four sessions to discuss the future of the Long Reach Village Center and the development of an Urban Renewal Plan. Sessions will all be held [7-9pm](#) at the Stonehouse: **April 30, May 28, June 11 and September 17**. I want you to make your voice heard.

I invite you to join us as we come together and continue our community conversation about a shared vision for the future of our Long Reach Village Center! This conversation would benefit from your voice. I believe our vision must be bold and build upon our strengths while captivating the imagination about what could be. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at [410-313-2001](tel:410-313-2001) or email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

## HC Drug Free – Staying Safe in Ocean City during Senior Week

Whether you are a graduating senior or heading to the ocean it's important to be responsible and make smart decisions. To help you do so, there will be two classes available both at 7pm: **Tuesday, April 7 at River Hill HS and Monday, April 27 at Mount Hebron HS**. To help you do so, there will be two classes available both at 7pm: Tuesday, April 7 at River Hill HS and Monday, April 27 at Mount Hebron HS. You will learn how to avoid dangerous situations and risky behavior including underage drinking and drug laws, signing leases, inspecting rental units for damage, calling home frequently and other issues. Those attending will also be taught safety including how to identify a rip current. For more details, call HC DrugFree at 443-325-0040.

## Breathe Deep Columbia 5K Walk and Fun Run



Join us for a great event to help raise awareness for lung cancer research! The LUNgevity Foundation is hosting a Breathe Deep Columbia 5K Walk on **Saturday, April 25, 2015** at Town Center and Lake Front Plaza. This event will take place rain or shine and will consist of two laps around Lake Kittamaqundi. The new pathway is wheelchair and stroller friendly. Pets are welcome but please clean up after them! Prizes will be awarded for top fundraisers and all proceeds are donated to the LUNgevity Foundation. Check-in/registration begins at 8:30am; program is at 9:30am; walk is 10am-11:30am with closing ceremony and music 11:30am-12pm. For more details, go [online](#) or email [Columbia@LUNgevity.org](mailto:Columbia@LUNgevity.org)

## HC Housing now Accepting Applications for MIHU Program

Howard County Housing is accepting applications for the April open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. The enrollment period ends **Thursday, April 30**. The MIHU program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced sale prices and rent to income eligible individuals and families.

As part of the program, Housing hosts a free "MIHU Buyers and Renters Workshop", on **Monday, April 20, 6-8 pm** at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive. The workshop is open to the public and will explain the program's eligibility requirements and application process for prospective homebuyers and renters. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Howard County Housing Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318** (select option 4).



## Public Meeting on Proposed General Plan Amendment

The Howard County Planning Board will hold a public meeting to review a proposed general plan amendment to Howard County's adopted general plan, *PlanHoward 2030*, and related to the proposed Patapsco Heritage Area. The Planning Board will meet on **Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7pm** in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. The technical staff report includes a copy of the proposed general plan amendment and is available [online](#). For more information, please email DPZ at [planning@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:planning@howardcountymd.gov).

## Public Meeting on Ilchester Road Water Main Replacement

Howard County's Department of Public Works will hold a public meeting **Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 pm** in the cafeteria at Bonnie Branch Middle School, 4979 Ilchester Road in Ellicott City, to share details regarding a county construction project to replace a water main (Capital Project W-8316). The project includes the replacement of approximately 5,700 linear ft of water main along Ilchester Rd from Montgomery Road to Ellis Lane in Ellicott City.

The meeting will include a presentation of the project, how it will impact the community and construction and traffic detour information. Full plans of the water main design as well as the detour plans and overall exhibits will be available to view, and following the presentation, attendees will have opportunity to ask questions. For questions or more information about Capital Project W-8316, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440** or by email to [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## College Savings Plans of Maryland Hosts Free Session on Marylands 529 Plans

Do you have children and interested in planning for their college tuition or just curious about Maryland's 529 plans? Learn more about the Maryland Prepaid College Trust and the Maryland College Investment Plan. The Maryland Prepaid College Trust allows families to lock in future college tuition at today's prices and is backed by a Maryland Legislative Guarantee. The Maryland College Investment Plan, managed and underwritten by T. Rowe Price, offers a variety of investment options, with no sales commissions or loads, and enrollment is open year-round. Both plans offer tax-deferred growth potential on earnings at the federal and state levels when used for qualified higher education expenses and are the only 529 plans that offer a Maryland state income deduction.

Representatives from the College Savings Plan of Maryland will be available **Howard Community College on Tuesday, April 7, 3:30-7pm**, to answer questions, provide information and offer enrollment help for families interested in these two Section 529 Plans. This free event is taking place as the **April 15** deadline to enroll in the Maryland Prepaid College Trust approaches. For more information, go [online](#).

## Howard County's Pedestrian Master Plan - WalkHoward

Howard County would like to invite residents as we update the County's Pedestrian Master Plan. The new plan continues efforts to build a system of sidewalks, pathways, bus stops and roadway crossings to make walking easy and safe – weather you are trying to get somewhere or just taking a casual stroll. Come to our open house in Elkridge and tell us where an improvement is needed. This event will be held **Tuesday, April 14, 2015 7-8:30pm** at Elkridge Landing Middle School, 7085 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075.

## "Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair



Come join us for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Rd in Columbia **April 11<sup>th</sup> 10am to 2pm!** This event will showcase programs and services for those looking to rent or buy in Howard County, and feature real estate professionals, housing specialists and other valuable services like free credit reports and consultations. Educational sessions will also be offered, such industry advice on how to purchase your first home, how and how to hire a contractor. A full listing of offered sessions can be found [online](#).

This year's event will exhibit fun for the entire family, such as children's activities and prize drawings throughout the day. This includes the ever-popular housing lottery featuring a NEW townhome located in Howard Square, ElkrIDGE. Applicants must be pre-qualified and all necessary paperwork must be submitted by **Monday, April 6, 2015 at 5pm**. For a full list of details on the contest, please click [here](#).

## H2O – Help to Others

A new program connecting Howard County residents who need assistance in paying their water and sewer bills with residents who want to help has been launched. Residential water and sewer customers will now be able to make donations to the fund. There will be a check box to top in to participate by rounding up their payments to the next highest dollar. Residents will also be given options to make on-going, or one-time donations to the program.

In October 2014, the Council passed legislation authorizing the creation of this program. Our Department of Public Works has agreed to set aside at least \$50,000 and funding will be used to assist customers with delinquent accounts who are facing disconnection of service. The County has selected a non-profit, Family and Children Services, to administer the program and verify the need of those seeking assistance. Those facing disconnection of water services should contact the County's Department of Finance Water and Sewer Division at **410-313-2058**.

## The Village in Howard

The Village in Howard supports residents age 55+ who choose to remain in their own homes by providing support, services and activities. Older residents as well as their adult children are invited out to learn more about this "community without walls" at information evening on **Monday, April 13, 2015 6:45pm** at the Miller Library, 9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City. More information about this resource is also available [online](#).

## Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate Earth Day with members of the Department of Recreation & Parks Natural Resources Division by helping mulch and shelter trees in the county's Reforestation Area at West Friendship Park. This event will be held on **Saturday, April 18 9am-12pm** and is open to all ages, everyone is encouraged to participate. Participants should wear closed-toe shoes and bring work gloves. Pre-registration is required by calling 410-313-7275. In the case of rain or inclement weather on April 18, please call 410-313-4451 after 7:30 a.m. to check on the status of the event. For more information, contact Linda DiPanfilo at **410-313-4704** or email [ldipanfilo@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ldipanfilo@howardcountymd.gov).

## 8th Annual GreenFest

Howard County will host its 8th annual GreenFest on **Saturday, April 18, 2015 10am-4pm** at Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria and Quad, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. This year's theme is "Living with Wildlife" and highlight environmentally conscious products, services, activities and opportunities for community involvement. Lunch will be available for purchase. NOTE: Paper shredding will be offered the WEEK AFTER on April 25 from 9am-1pm at the Long Gate Park & Ride (exist 1A off Route 100).



For more information, go [online](#), call **410-313-6433** or email [awilcom@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:awilcom@howardcountymd.gov).

## 2015 Community Sports Hall of Fame – Nominees Sought

The Community Sports Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or event behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated! In addition, nominees must be either Howard County residents or made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. Forms are available online or call **410-313-4711**. **Deadline is April 15.**



## Green Run 5K – Run Through the Valley



Join the Howard County Conservancy as we celebrate Earth Day with a run through the trails of Patapsco State Park. Run begins and ends at Belmont Manor and Historic Park on **April 19th at 8am**. A FREE family nature scavenger hunt with prizes will be held from 9-11am. \$35/person.

## Annual STEM Fair and Festival

The community is invited to the annual STEM Fair and Festival on **Saturday, April 11, 2015 10am-12pm** at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Land, Columbia, MD 21045. The awards presentation is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15, 2015 6-8pm** at the same location. Please RSVP for both events to Mary Drew at **410-313-6615**.

Columbia Village Board Elections have arrived! On Saturday, April 25, 2015 - Make your voice heard and cast your ballot!

## Children's Discovery Fair

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hand-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. The theme for 2015 is "Look What's In Our Neighborhood". Admission is free and will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2015 10am-1pm** at East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD. Please bring a non-perishable donation for the Howard County Food Bank. This event is in part of the "Launch into Learning" Initiative and is sponsored by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council and Howard County Library System. For more information, call 410-313-1940 or 410-313-7750 or e-mail [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual WomenFest

WomenFest will be held **Saturday, April 25, 2015 10am-3pm** at the Gary Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville. This is an interactive day focusing on health, wellness, fashion, and beauty and featuring 90+ vendors and exhibitors, free health screenings, interactive seminars, plus a special keynote presentation by Lynne Brick, President of Brick Bodies Fitness Services, Inc. and cooking demos by the co-authors of the *Eight Broads in the Kitchen*. Admission is free and there will be free onsite parking. Fresh delicious lunch options are available for purchase and free door prizes will be held throughout the day. More details are available [online](#).



## Long Reach Flea Market

Long Reach Flea Market will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2015 8am-12pm**, this is a fantastic opportunity to sell or purchase treasures. Those looking to set-up shop, the cost is \$20/space. Stop by the Stonehouse or call **410-730-8113** for more info or download the [application](#).

## OMMS Parent and GT Orientation

Parents of Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders attending Oakland Mill Middle School - OMMS has scheduled the Parent Orientation for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade and GT for **Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m.** in the OMMS cafeteria.

## South American CultureFest



Enjoy an afternoon of music, dance performances and educational displays. This free family event will be held **Sunday, April 26 1:30-4:30pm** at Howard County's Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City. For more details go [online](#), contact **Laura Smit** at **410-715-3162** or email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

## Beware of IRS Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services warns residents to be alert for calls from individuals claiming they represent the IRS or other government agencies. This warning follows reports to the Department's Office of Consumer Affairs from several residents about a new variation on the IRS imposter scam that began several years ago. In this new variation, the caller claims to be with the IRS and needs to verify your refund by confirming your refund amount, along with your bank routing and account information. To taxpayers who are expecting a refund, this may appear to be a routine administrative call.

The Office of Consumer Affairs advises:

- Do not give personal information over the telephone to a caller you don't know. The IRS will never contact you by telephone regarding your tax bill, unless you have called the agency first. The IRS mails important communications to taxpayers and provides details on how to respond or get more information.
- Do not respond to any solicitation or demand for money immediately. If you think the caller may be legitimate, ask for details and contact information that you can verify over the internet or by calling the agency's public phone number.
- A demand or request for payment by wire transfer or pre-paid card is a "red flag" that the call is a scam. Such payments cannot be traced by the victim or law enforcement agencies, and legitimate businesses and government agencies never ask for money to be paid this way.

For more info and/or to report a potential scam, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 or visit the Office's "Scam Alert!" [website](#). Residents who have lost money or feel their personal safety is at risk due to a scam, should contact the Howard County Police Department's non-emergency phone number at **410-313-2200** to file a report.



## Settlement Downpayment Loan Program!

Looking to buy a home or relocate in Howard County? Howard County Housing has invested \$400,000 to the Department's Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP) that will offer homebuyers a deferred second mortgage loan, to be used by those preapproved for settlement costs and downpayments. Buyers must agree to occupy the home as their primary residence. Interest rates are set at 2 percent below the first mortgage interest rate and repayment of the loans is deferred until resale, refinance or default.

## Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)!

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) are grants up to \$2,000 to assist adults with development disabilities and families with a child with developmental disabilities with purchasing services and/or items to address needs. MD residents who have a developmental disability, their family or authorized representative may apply. Requests can be submitted **January 1-31 and July 1-31** of each year.

For more details or to receive a copy of the application, go [online](#) or contact the LISS agency serving Howard County: Penn Mar Human Services, 410-357-0891; 1-877-282-8202; TTY: 711 or email [LISS@penn-mar.org](mailto:LISS@penn-mar.org).

## Rebuilding Together Howard County!

HCAR will be sponsoring a home this year and we're asking YOU to join us – skilled and non-skilled labor activities will be needed! Come out **Saturday, April 25 9am-5pm** RAIN OR SHINE. There will be two shifts and volunteers should be prepared to donate at least 4 hours of your time. The cost is \$35/person & your time. All proceeds go to "Rebuilding Together Howard County". You may sign-up [online](#) and the deadline to register is **Tuesday, March 31, 2015**.

## Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at [petakl@makingchangecenter.org](mailto:petakl@makingchangecenter.org) if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit [www.makingchangecenter.org](http://www.makingchangecenter.org).

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Give the Gift of Independence!

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.

## Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

HS students (Ages 13-19) and MS students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email [CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month **6:30-8pm** at the Youth & Teen Center in The Barn, **5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

**Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment program at Columbia Art Center. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**. Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

**Columbia Teen Center** 410-992-3726

[Howard County Library](#)

**Voices For Change:** Email Meg Mekelburg for more info [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

## Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook, Stevens Forest and Swansfield. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call **410-730-6030**.

## Scholarships For Students!

As an educator, I know the value and importance of education. I also know that many families often struggle with financing the dream. Below is a sample of scholarships available. I encourage your students to apply early.

### ["Aspiring Animation Professional" Scholarship Program](#)

**Deadline:** June 1, 2015; Winners announced July 2015, scholarships paid August 2015

**Description:** Limited to HS seniors in the US pursuing an animation related degree program at an accredited post-secondary school or college.



### ["Aspiring Fashion Professional" Scholarship Program](#)

**Deadline:** June 1, 2015; Winners announced July 2015 and scholarships paid August 2015; Award: \$1,000 for one year, non-renewable

**Description:** For HS seniors in the US who intend to pursue a fashion related field at an accredited post-secondary school or college. Have a demonstrable record of academic success and a passion and drive for a fashion related career. Selection based on academic performance combined with student's application essay.

## CA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Day Afternoon

Woof! There it is! Local canines — and their people — are invited to a free afternoon of contests, treats, activities and lots of tail-wagging fun. Columbia Association (CA) is hosting their 9<sup>th</sup> annual Dog Day Afternoon on **Saturday, May 2, 11am-3pm** at Columbia DogPark, 5901 Rivendell Lane, adjacent to the Harper's Choice Village Center in Columbia.

Dog lovers can enter their four-legged friends into the Tail-Wagging Contest; Most Fashionable Fashion Show; Bone-Eating Contest; Columbia's Cutest Canine Contest; and more. Additional entertainment may include raffles, music, food — yes, for dogs and for humans — pet demos, face painting, a moon bounce (for people only), caricature artists, and an arts and crafts station sponsored by Columbia Art Center. For more details, go [online](#).

## Collision Avoidance Training

The HC Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) classes March-December. This is an advance defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. This one day program (8.5 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and will provide practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, threshold/emergency braking, forward serpentine, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine and skid and off-road recovery.

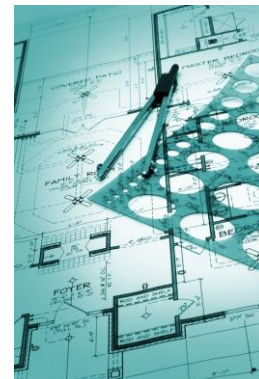
Students must operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver to receive a certificate of completion. Cost is \$95. Sessions are: **April 25, May 16, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 12** **August 22-23/September 19-20/October 17-18/November 14-15/December 5-6**. For more details, contact Ms. Jessica Beram at **410-313-3758** or email [JBeram@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:JBeram@howardcountymd.gov).

## MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact **Deborah Gillen** at 410-313-3508 or [DGillen@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:DGillen@howardcountymd.gov).



## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services. They provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial **9-1-1**
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call **410-313-2200**
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call **410-290-3784**
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call **410-313-7867** or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call **410-313-7867** or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call **410-313-3712** or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call **410-313-4795** and leave a message to make an appointment.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available [online](#).
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call **410-313-2780**, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call **410-313-2208** for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call **410-313-7807**.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call **410-313-2255**
- **Interesting in HCPD Recruitment?** Call **410-313-4273**.

## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!



The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

## TotallyHoCo – Howard County’s new online calendar!



Have you ever wanted a centralized place to see many of the events happening locally? Maybe you are looking for a way to let more local people know about the event you're hosting. There's a new online calendar in Howard County that can help you find, share and post events! It's TotallyHoCo.com, and it's free to use. Check out the categories of events such as Family Friendly, Music, Game Nights, Arts & Culture, Girls Night Out and more!

### "Guaranteed Ride Home"!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.

### Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or go [online](#).

### Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

### Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

### I Want to Hear From You!

As your Councilmember, it's my mission to engage with you and your community. Your testimony is always welcome as the Council considers legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. You can view our calendar [here](#).

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Ellicott City, MD 21043

*"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.